Paul Fanning

11/7/66

312 WH 4-6000

Mr. Herb Howard
WBBM, Chicago

Dear Mr. Howard,

When I tried to phone you about an hour ago I placed it reverse for two reasons: we have no dough and you could refuse the call (the other talk stations have told me to call collect the few times I do); and I'd had no earlier chance to write.

As soon as I finished writing what I had to get done today I tried to let you know of what I think will make a good program for Mr. Williams that can also be relatively short. This is news in the sense that the papers haven't carried it and I've given it to only one other radio station, on the east coast.

I have the official list of "evidence" transferred from the Department of Justice to the National Archives a week ago. It is a real can of worms - almost entirely junk, trivia and trash. There are a few items that are valid if you assume Oswald is the assassin, like the rifle, ~~xxxxxx~~ empty shells picked up in the Dallas area, and a few employment records. Nothing shattering in any event, despite the headlines.

What the government did is to move this stuff accross Seventh Street - from the west side to the east - and to seize what was private property. Again, except for the rifle, nothing of value. Ruth Paine may have a different opinion, because, ~~xf~~ for unexplained reasons, her Minox was also seized.

and JFK's clothes

There are about a dozen exhibits or empty envelopes, used and unused; Xmas, greeting, postal, calling (secretarial service), change of address and subscription (LIFE) cards; toilet articles (whose not specified); Marina's sewing basket, with religious medal and nailfile; her patterns, sewing and crocheting instructions; recipes and a cookbook; baby-care literature; the birth certificates of both kids; an assortment of wallets and tie clasps; a second-hand magazine wrapper; stationery, including with flowered border, blank; a writing tablet, presumeably blank; a mess pass; two paperback Ian Flemings; two volumes of Wells's "Outline of History"; a book of Top Value trading stamps; embroidery information; an assortment of watches; a copy of the Nation and reprints from the New Republic; dictionaries; various educational aids, including shorthand; a Sears Roebuck catalogue; the second-hand, cheap camera Oswald gave his niece in 1958, when he was a boy; his library cards; ammunition bought by the government; etc.

What an addition to out national treasure! How worthy of enshrining in the National Archives!

This is what the acting attorney general "determined that the national interest required be placed in the archive, with the President's clothes, so that "the entire body of evidence...be preserved intact."

There is, of course, much more to the story - much worse - than a bunch of junk. I had two stories to get done and mailed on it and the pictures and Xrays, hence could not write sooner. I do not know when you will get this or if it will interest you. I think it will outrage most people. I'll mail it in the a.m. when I'm in Washington. Tonight is the only night this week I know I'm free. I may be free two others, not tomorrow, the eighth, and not the 9th or 10th, I'll know which tomorrow. I expect that one of the other two nights I'll be broadcasting from 9-12, our time. It is because I thought this might interest Mr. Williams and except for this one station has it that I phoned. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

(no body